Amendments of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified patent application:

Listing of Claims

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 27 wherein said first date is an inception date of said investment portfolio, and said second date is a maturity date of said investment portfolio.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 28 wherein said at least one contract ~~sub-portfolio~~ comprises a futures contract.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 28 wherein said at least one contract ~~sub-portfolio~~ comprises a forward contract.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 28 wherein said at least one contract ~~sub-portfolio~~ comprises a swap agreement.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 27 wherein said feasible loss in notional value of said ~~contract~~ volatile sub-portfolio ~~represents~~ comprises a probable maximum loss in notional value of said ~~contract~~ volatile sub-portfolio.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 27 wherein said ~~asset~~ reserve sub-portfolio comprises a fixed income security.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 7 wherein said ~~asset~~ reserve sub-portfolio further comprises ~~a fixed-income security and~~ a derivative contract.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 7 wherein said ~~determining said composition comprises determining a future value of said asset~~ reserve sub-portfolio ~~for said second date, and wherein said determined composition is such that said feasible loss in notional value of said contract sub-portfolio is less than or equal to a difference between said future value of said asset sub-portfolio and said highest marked-to-market value~~ further comprises a cash equivalent.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said determining said composition employs a formula:

$$xE \leq Z(1+r)^{m} + K - HW$$

where:

E = a notional value of said ~~contract~~ volatile sub-portfolio;

x = a fractional representation of said feasible loss in said notional value of said ~~contract~~ volatile sub-portfolio;

Z = a value of a note or a bond in said ~~asset~~ reserve sub-portfolio;

r = a yield to said second date [[for]] of said note or said bond in said reserve sub-portfolio;

m = a number of years to said second date;

K = a value of a cash equivalent in said ~~asset~~ reserve sub-portfolio;

HW = said highest marked-to-market value; and

Z+K = [[a]] said current market value of assets allocated to said ~~asset~~ reserve sub-portfolio.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 27 wherein said ~~determining said feasible loss in notional value of said contract sub-portfolio~~ allocation date and said ~~determining said composition are performed~~ marked-to-market date occur periodically.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11[[,]] wherein occurrence of said ~~periodic performance~~ allocation date has a period that corresponds to ~~that of a periodic determination~~ occurrence of said ~~value for said investment portfolio~~ marked-to-market date.

13-24. (cancelled)

25. (new) The method of claim 12 wherein both said allocation date and said marked-to-market date occur daily.

26. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein K bears a fixed relationship to E.

27. (new) A method for managing an investment portfolio, said investment portfolio including investments divided among at least a volatile sub-portfolio and a reserve sub-portfolio, said method comprising:

determining, on an allocation date, a highest marked-to-market value for said investment portfolio on a previous marked-to-market date falling on or after a first date and on or before said allocation date;

determining, on said allocation date, a feasible loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio between said allocation date and a next marked-to-market date falling on or after said allocation date and on or before a second date; and

determining, on said allocation date, a composition of said investment portfolio, comprising a current notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio and a current

market value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio; wherein:

said portfolio composition is such that a sum of (a) a future value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio on said next marked-to-market date, and (b) a difference between (1) a current market value of said volatile sub-portfolio, and (2) said feasible loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio as applied to said current notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio, is at least equal to said highest marked-to-market value for said investment portfolio.

28. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein investments in said volatile sub-portfolio include at least one contract.

29. (new) A data storage medium encoded with machine-executable instructions for performing a method of managing an investment portfolio, said investment portfolio including investments divided among at least a volatile sub-portfolio and a reserve sub-portfolio, said instructions comprising instructions for:

determining, on an allocation date, a highest marked-to-market value for said investment portfolio on a previous marked-to-market date falling on or after a first date and on or before said allocation date;

determining, on said allocation date, a feasible loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio between said allocation date and a next marked-to-market date falling on or after said allocation date and on or before a second date; and

determining, on said allocation date, a composition of said investment portfolio, comprising a current notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio and a current market value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio; wherein:

said portfolio composition is such that a sum of (a) a future value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio on said next marked-to-market date, and (b) a difference between (1) a current market value of said volatile sub-portfolio, and (2) said feasible loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio as applied to said current notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio, is at least equal to said highest marked-to-market value for said investment portfolio.

30. (new) The data storage medium of claim 29 wherein said instruction for determining, on said allocation date, a feasible loss in notional value comprises an instruction for determining a probable maximum loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio.

31. (new) The data storage medium of claim 29 wherein said instruction for determining said composition comprises an instruction to employ a formula:

$$xE \leq Z(1+r)^{m} + K - HW$$

where:

E = a notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio;

x = a fractional representation of said feasible loss in said notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio;

Z = a value of a note or a bond in said reserve sub-portfolio;

r = a yield to said second date of said note or bond in said reserve sub-portfolio;

m = a number of years to said second date;

K = a value of a cash equivalent in said reserve sub-portfolio;

HW = said highest marked-to-market value; and

Z+K = said current market value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio.

32. (new) The data storage medium of claim 31 wherein said instructions for performing said method comprise an instruction assigning a fixed relationship between K and E.